## **COVID-19**Commemorative Memory Book

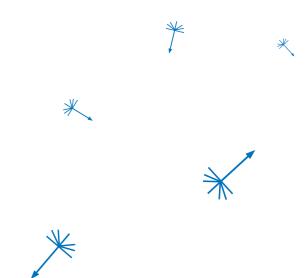


## Introduction

As part of our commemorations marking a year of COVID-19, we remember the lives lost during the pandemic and thank our colleagues for everything they have done and continue to do. The last year has been incredibly challenging for all of us and everyone has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic with compassion, courage and determination.

We thank everyone who shared their memories and tributes; these memories commemorate what and who we lost, as well as some of the positive things that we found over the past year. This memory book serves as a permanent and precious reminder of a year like no other.







The feeling of disbelief, uncertainty, confusion and fear quickly faded by everyone working together to meet each new challenge and the challenges came daily! I can't thank the Trust Leadership and Divisional Teams enough for helping to guide us through this pandemic.

My heartfelt thanks go to my own Home Enteral Feeding Team, who continue to work brilliantly despite the ongoing difficulties we face thanks to COVID. Proud!

99



I'd like to thank every single person right across the board for their resolve, determination and ability to adapt at the last minute throughout this pandemic.

Not every discipline gets recognised, but everyone has pulled together and pulled this off.

Well done Cheltenham ;-)







To a dear cousin, Stephen Pares who was sadly taken from us by this terrible virus. February 2021

99



Thank you to colleagues for everything that they have achieved.

99



**Claire Feehily** 



**Jane Walters** 

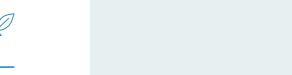
66

I will always remember the great strength, courage and team spirit we kept going throughout the pandemic right from the beginning.

Team AMU xxxx



In memory of my brother Ronald Harris who sadly passed away from COVID pneumonia at GRH on 19/01/21 with grateful thanks who all who cared for him.





**Shirley Harris** 

99

**Tamasyn Bell** 



As a nurse, COVID-19 has proved difficult, challenging and heartbreaking in so many ways throughout the last 12 months. To my dearly lost Gramp who made the world a little softer, a little kinder and a little warmer.

However, I send thanks to colleagues for giving strength and supporting each other during the pandemic, and as said by Captain Tom Moore "the sun will shine on you again and the clouds will go away".

99



This has been a year like no other we have ever known.

It has been a year of great sadness and accomplishment, showing the importance of good communication and kindness.

I have worked in the NHS in various hospitals over 45 years.

I can truly say that I have never been prouder than I feel today to be working with such a wonderful set of NHS colleagues.

You are inspirational by all that you have done during COVID and continue to do. Reflect and be proud.

Take time to be as kind to yourselves as you have been to those who have needed you.

When we needed a --- (whatever was required)... you were there!

You were there!







Almost one year ago to the day, my emotions were conflicted; some amazing all-round teamwork procured, configured and deployed 74 iPads in just a few days with a secure and universal way of remotely video connecting every hospital ward, housing some of the most unwell patients, with their nearest and dearest wherever they may have been and using any mobile and video device. This culminated in sitting with a ward Sister and an elderly patient to be the first to reconnect with his daughter and grandson after weeks of limited telephone contact only. Me and the ward Sister shared a proper tearjerker moment.

At the time, nobody knew the gravity of the situation as it unfolded and escalated, but knowing in a matter of days that these iPads were one of the only ways of critically unwell COVID-19 ITU patients reconnecting with their families, sometimes for the last time, conflicted me hugely on reflection; I'd rarely been so moved, satisfied or proud as I was for our team having achieved this so quickly - it was the very best we could do under the circumstances.

However it felt overwhelmingly difficult to process that during our (sometimes last) hours of need that being reduced to a video call was the best we could do and what we were reduced to, compared with the human physical touch and personal moments so many of us would crave when that moment arrives. So yeah, mixed emotions. Nonetheless, 21st Century Digital technology made its permanent mark right there and then, both for our patients and in their, and our, hearts. A stark memory of pride overshadowing pain, which drove me through the following months, no matter how dark the days got.

99



Martyn Hebbron



Martyn Hebbron

13



In loving memory of my wonderful Dad, Eddie Phipps, who lost his battle with COVID-19 on 21st April 2020. A huge thank you also to all the NHS staff who looked after him so wonderfully and cared for him so greatly. You are all angels on Earth x  $\heartsuit$  x

Leanne

66

Remembering Gerard Gardner who died during the COVID-19 pandemic with much love from all of your family xxx

99



**Anon** 

77

66

I would like to remember my lovely husband, Richard, who sadly passed away in March 2019. I miss him every day. He worked for GHNHS Trust for 38 years and I know he is missed greatly by his work colleagues.

Always in my heart. Sharon.



I would like to remember my great uncle whom sadly passed in February after contracting COVID-19. He would have been 95 this year. He was a true gentleman.

I miss being able to talk with him.



**Amy Kavanagh** 



**Sharon Cooper** 



As part of the commemoration of COVID-19, I would like to thank and give high praises to all the Staff of GHNHSFT. I knew fellow staff that suffered from COVID-19 and were admitted in ITU.

The delivery of care from admission to discharge was amazing. Everyone worked their best and their hardest at this difficult time.

99



I remember the day we were asked to be the first Community hospital to be an end of life ward for COVID patients. We were all nervous and scared of the unknown. Teams within the hospital from all departments came together and worked as a team on the ward.

As time went on, things were not how we thought they would be and some patients were engaging in rehabilitation. This helped us use our work skills to full advantage.

Another good thing to come out of the first wave, staff got to know every single person working at Tewkesbury hospital and made friends for life. It has been sad losing patients but hopefully soon things will be much better for everyone.





**April Atherton** 





During the first wave, I worked in ITU at weekends to help at their most challenging time!

The compassion, energy and resilience of these staff is truly incredible and I was glad to be a part of the team for 7 weeks.

The staff have remained professional and provided a high level of care despite the challenges. They should be commended for teaching non-ITU staff essential skills as the combined effort really did make a difference!

There were lots of positives with patients getting better in contrast to the darker more difficult days which tested the resilience of the most experienced clinical staff.

Well done all and proud to have played my part 🖤





How COVID 'saved my life'. I was working for another NHS trust in a department with a strong culture of bullying. Redeployment to a COVID Ward gave me new confidence and the courage to go forwards. In July 2020 I joined GHNHFT and was embraced by your compassionate culture. Now I work in an exciting job with intelligent, kind and diverse colleagues.



**Anon** 



To the teams I observed on the wards on both sites doing everything they could to keep loved ones informed and to provide the best care they could for patients who were dying.



**Kate Tredgett** 

Claire



I was admitted to Cheltenham General Hospital on 10th March 2020 with COVID-19. The professionalism of NHS staff at every level was to be admired and due to their care and encouragement, despite being given only a 50/50% chance of survival I finally recovered. Sadly however, I lost both my parents to this terrible virus!



**Mike Davis** 

66

In loving memory of my Auntie & Godmother, Doreen Jones who we sadly lost to COVID-19 on 30th November 2020 aged 90.

Thinking of you Aunty Do and we miss you every day always in our hearts.

Lots of love always x x ♥



**Michelle Freeman** 

99

66

A tribute to my husband David Ferris who was taken too soon.

We were together for 45 years. You were inspiring, creating love, fun and positivity in our lives. I am so lucky to have had you in my life and will always cherish our memories.



A prayer for the departed souls.

May the Heavens receive you and grant your souls peaceful rest. May God grant us all peace with the hope that we will one day meet again.

Rest Rest in the Lord Amen



**Emma Sodzi** 



99



From the bottom of my heart I would like to thank the wonderful, courageous teams who saved my Dad's life after his 10 week battle with COVID-19.

Thanks to you, he survived and got to meet his new granddaughter who was born when he was at his worst in critical care.

Thank you also to the Maternity Dept. at GRH who brought her safely into the world at the height of the pandemic.

You are all truly amazing and I cannot thank you all enough for taking care of my Dad, myself and baby Matilda xx 66

To all the Staff in ITU GRH who cared for my late husband David Ferris.

A special thank you to Dr Matthew Martin, Dr Simon Webster, Sister Mary Thompson and Staff Nurse Sarah Penson who talked through Dave's last few days with such care and compassion.

Thank you with all my heart.

99







**Gillian Ferris** 



I would like to thank the whole midwifery team at GRH. Being pregnant in the middle of a pandemic certainly had it's toll, especially on my partner as understandably he wasn't allowed to certain appointments, had certain visiting times and had to leave straight after birth, which meant I spent a lot of time in my own, but the midwifery team were fantastic and super friendly and made it less of a painful experience, especially through worrying times when we had to visit triage for reduced movements.

All the staff there are a real credit to the hospital and we are lucky to have such amazing, caring people.

66

I would like to remember my dad Roger Dobson who was a hospital porter at CGH for 10 years, volunteered for a further 6 years and tirelessly campaigned for Organ Donation since losing my mum after having gone through the process himself.

I lost my dad in August 2020 after being diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia the August before.

Respect Dad for the courage and dignity you showed dealing with a terminal illness during this pandemic.







**Samantha Giles** 



I will always remember this time as a time that we all stepped up. We supported each other in new ways such as WhatsApp and I got to know the team I work in better than I had previously.

We found ways to help where we could in our own sphere. I made scrubs and hats and button bands for other staff that worked incredibly hard on the wards and ITU. I felt incredibly proud to be a nurse and part of the Trust.

99



To the Yellow Lanyard Team of CGH:

During the first wave of COVID-19 this team, made up of respiratory trained nurses from Avening Ward, supported staff on other wards caring for patients with COVID-19 where needed across CGH.

The healthcare assistants were distributed among wards at CGH where needed, and worked just as hard.

All of them worked with commitment and compassion during this very difficult period and when all other nursing teams returned to their respective wards, the nurses and healthcare assistants were told that Avening Ward respiratory medicine was to be moved across to become ward 8a at GRH.

With a loss of approx. 50% of the staff initially, they have worked hard again, adapting to new environments, rebuilding the team - all whilst caring for our patients with COVID-19 during the second wave.

Their adaptability and resilience is testament to the strength of the team.

Just wanted to acknowledge them.



99

**Anon** 



My memories are of faceless people that I could only recall by the sound of their voices. Distressed wives asking of the whereabouts of their husbands, sons wanting to know when their fathers might come home. There were divided families, each competing for information and those who just needed to know their relative didn't die alone. Mothers were emotional that their children were in hospital beds and siblings overwhelmed that they could not comfort their parents in the last moments of their lives. Neighbours were concerned and old friends wanted to get in touch. Some wanted to say their last goodbyes and others to give hope with news of a new arrival. There were life stories shared about years gone by and dreams of all that the future would hold.

Some calls were hard to take, some calls a joy but each voice left its mark on me.

66

I would like to commit to memory the fantastic team I have had the honour of leading throughout the pandemic. The whole Hearing Services team came together in making sure all our patients, adults and children were well looked after during lockdown.

Our main drive was that, in times where isolation was / is so prevalent, we wanted to make sure all those who are suffering additional isolation because of their hearing difficulties, were not forgotten.

The contacts we made during lockdown have been so encouraging and patients have appreciated the time we spent with them on the phone.

Times have been tough for all individuals, but we all managed to pull together and made a small (sometimes a big) difference for so many, it has been heart-warming.

My special thanks to a very special team xxx









To everyone who has lost someone special to COVID-19 over the past year, my sincere condolences.

To everyone who have had to watch someone special go through having COVID-19, Stay Strong and Keep Positive, We Will Beat It Together.
There is light at the end of the tunnel.

Thinking of you all

99



**Janice Edwards** 



I would like to remember how hard the microbiology laboratory worked to get COVID-19 testing up and running and accredited to UKAS standards. The team rallied together to commit to extended working hours to provide rapid COVID-19 testing and it's an achievement I'm very proud to have been a part of.



**Jessica Norman** 

99



In memory of Nick Buckland who sadly lost his life to COVID last month and also to Sir Tom Moore and all the other souls who lost the fight.

Forever in our thoughts.



To all the GMS Med engineering staff a big shout out to you all you have worked so hard this past year and you deserve the biggest thank you, keep safe and well.



**Dennis Smith** 

99





I was a patient in GRH April to May 2020, initially in intensive care then in the High Dependency Unit next door. My room overlooked the garden beside the chapel and it was such a joy to see green plants after weeks of no view at all.

On a couple of occasions, I saw a man and lady tending the garden and I promised myself I would get a plant to add to the rather sparse beds. I will be donating.

99



In memory of Kathryn Hiley a very dear friend and member of staff in Radiology Dept CGH. Such a sad and unexpected loss for someone so young who had everything to live for. We miss you every day and will always have great memories of the hard work you have given to the trust and the friendships you have made along the way. Shine bright in the sky

Kat x x ♥

99





**Michelle Freeman** 



I want to say a massive THANK-YOU to all of the admin staff across Oncology, Haematology and Palliative Care who have remained as focused and dedicated as ever throughout the COVID pandemic.

Their determination to continue to work and remain office based where possible has meant that our patients and service haven't experienced anything other than excellent service.

It's not been easy, there have been some challenges along the way - social distancing and working from home to name just two - but each and every one of our admin staff have done the Trust, and each other, proud.

Certainly the most hardworking, dedicated and caring staff who have all played their part in keeping our hospitals going!

66

Irrespective of being struck down with COVID-19 in April 2020 and enduring long COVID to this day, I am so privileged to be part of the vaccination programme.

I knew I wanted to be part of the programme from the very beginning. Not just that but what an honour to be part of the biggest vaccination programme in NHS history.









We lost our Mum, Molly Aitken, aged 95 to COVID on December 31st 2020. Her last days were spent at the Gloucestershire Royal and the family would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all the staff who cared for our Mum in her final days.

We thank you for your kindness and compassion. It means a lot to know our much loved Mum died with dignity at a time when we could not be with her.

Thank you.

99



An elderly lady joined me in the Tower Block lifts and pressed the button for Level 8. I knew instantly that she was going to visit a loved one who was gravely unwell with COVID, or perhaps they had already passed away.

The visiting restrictions meant that any visitors were no longer part of an anonymous crowd in the hospital and I felt that I knew what was happening without even saying a word to her.

We stood in the lift two metres apart, both in quiet contemplation.

99





**Dr Andrea Ling** 



I remember hearing about the virus and learning that it would come to us. I remember our first case and feeling something like excitement; we felt prepared for the anticipated fight. I remember long nights wearing PPE and hard conversations with families through masks and visors. I remember training to give the vaccine, feeling I could be part of the solution, that I could do work that would make a difference again.

I remember feeling isolated from family and friends, and that the world was on hold. I still feel the hope for tomorrow.

99



2020 has been one of the saddest years in our century, losing so many lives in this disease of unknown and despite of continuous battle we are doing to protect and find the cure.

COVID-19 made us look at the silver lining of community service, leaning on each other's support and bravery while facing this disease every single day. I have seen how each and every one of us endured all these lockdowns and death that we saw. We worked so hard not just as a trust but as a team a community to save lives and to believe that there's an ending for this pandemic.

I have been believing that each one of us have done something whether its been recognised or not. One day we will find ourselves hugging our love ones again.





**Camille Mata** 





To the Amazing Vascular team,

For working wherever needed with a smile willing and eager to learn new skills, ever adaptable to change. Supporting patients, their families and each other through some tough times and going above and beyond to maintain a therapeutic environment.

Our thoughts always to those we have cared for who did not make it home. You will forever remain in our hearts.

99



During COVID-19 I faced some of the most physically and mentally challenging experiences with some of the best colleagues.

Very often my mind casts back to all those I've seen pass from this dreaded virus, but also all those who have walked out the hospital door; my thoughts are with every single one of them xxx

99





**Alisha Evans** 



I volunteered to help set up the Bristol Nightingale Hospital in March 2020 during the first wave of COVID-19.

Those days were extremely hard work, with the regional team assembled to represent the entirety of the South West Critical Care Network.

There were about 30 clinicians and 40-50 NHS support staff seconded to set up Nightingale, we worked alongside hundreds of military and contractors and despite an exceptionally tight schedule for the build, testing and commissioning we delivered the emergency hospital on schedule.

I am very pleased that the Nightingale was not actively required to treat COVID-19 ICU patients, the hospital was a success and an example of NHS ingenuity, passion, hard work, commitment and flexibility.

Following the commissioning of the Bristol Nightingale I worked closely alongside the

SWCCN colleagues to help develop the Adult Retrieve service and supported the service for 6 weeks to help transfer critically unwell patients around the region and country.

I am pleased to see the shadows of my contribution in the new Adult Retrieve service and how the service is developing to support regional intensive care delivery and patient safety.









John Bell



One of the most difficult and challenging years out of the many I have been Nursing. Made bearable by my dedicated and hardworking colleagues in the Acute Care Response Team and all the staff across this trust who have pulled together and cared for the patients of this area to the very best of our abilities.



**Nicola Jackson** 

66

This year has without a doubt reinforced how much I admire my respiratory colleagues.

I'm in awe of them all; their dedication to practice & kindness towards our patients. I will forever be proud to be a part of this team.



**Becky Marshall** 

99

66

All the cards, drawings and well wishes, especially from schools who sent in posters. It really felt like the public were backing us in our "fight" and sending all their support.



**Anon** 

66

The strong sense of team throughout 2020. Not only did this help me at work but it helped me through the strange time in general. Knowing I was coming to work in a team that supported me kept me going.



99

**Anon** 



I would like to remember Joseph A. Solarski 1925 - 2020. Died from COVID-19 in December 2020.



**Anon** 



My Work Family - the friends and colleagues I've shared the past 12 months' experiences with. You're all fantastic. Always caring, kind and compassionate. I couldn't have done it without you.



**Mary Robinson** 



I recall how we all pulled together. How my relative was cared for and survived. How proud I feel to be part of the NHS.





**Anon** 



Fantastic Team Spirit. Wonderful dedication shown by all involved in patient management. A very big salute to cleaners, linen and laundry services for our hospitals.



**Anon** 



My colleagues in ED/MIU CGH throughout this pandemic. The hard work and team effort that has been displayed by them has been amazing.

99



66

The theatre recovery team at CGH. They have maintained a recovery service for patients requiring surgery during the pandemic as well as being the first team called in to help in DCC by Public Health England. They have gone above and beyond. In the second pandemic surge, they also helped on medical wards.



**Anon** 

99

66

Molly O'Grady who died just before her great great grandchild was born the fifth generation from her.

99



**Anon** 

66

My transition from admin to ward staff. I got myself redeployed from my admin role to a therapy support worker that I absolutely loved. I ended up on ward 7B and when I was told my redeployment was over I was heartbroken but I went back as an HCA and for the first time in my life I love my job.



**Anon** 



My ambition to work for the NHS became a reality! However I started this new job during the pandemic. Working partly from home, wearing masks and being socially distant in the office, plus the smell and stickiness of hand sanitizer is something I won't forget. Can't wait to see the 'full faces' of my new colleagues when we can all remove our masks.



My work family with in Gallery Ward and the therapy service who took the place of my family in Ireland and helped me to keep going. My children feel the patience and tolerance and constant supply of love and cuddles. Those who died, their families and those for whom COVID changed their lives.



**Anon** 



Simply every single person act and emotion that brought our 'TRUST' through the pandemic with compassion kindness and strength – something I will always be proud of and cherish. God bless.



Every person who lost someone dear.

The people who have fought for themselves and to help others.

Everyone living and passing in this pandemic.



**Anon** 

**Anon** 

**Anon** 

51



Sometimes it is not as easy as it seems to stay connected to people we value, may all the joy and happiness you have all brought to those around you be returned a thousand-fold.

What could be more fulfilling than working with warmth, commitment, intellect, initiative, imagination, dedication, enthusiasm - this has been such a great achievement.

Accepting the challenge the year has brought us all you deserve this honour. What a journey we have been on together. We have dreamt, persevered, we have achieved a great legacy together. The difference we have made to people's lives along the way. Believe. Hope in people.

99



To the teams I observed on the wards on both sites doing everything they could to keep loved ones informed and to provide the best care they could for patients who were dying.

99



**Anon** 



Everybody clapping on Thursday at 8pm for the NHS.



99



**Anon** 



The way all the staff here at GCH have called together through this very difficult time. It has been a privilege to work here.

99



Those that lived through it. Those that saved lives. Those that weren't so lucky.

99



**Anon** 



66

My mum Pamela Haves, 23.02.1964 – 01.04.2020. My mum was quite simply perfect and beautiful and great at her job as a maths teacher. She was a ray of sunshine. Her two sons and daughter-in-law miss her so much and so does her new grandson who was born four months later.



**Anon** 

66

My dear friend Janet Clarke who died last May during COVID. She is such a great loss to me but will always be remembered as a wonderful funny friend. RIP





**Anon** 

55



Thank you does not convey strongly enough the gratitude my family and I feel for all the Gloucestershire trust staff have done during the last 12 months and continue to do every day.

99



**Anon** 

66

All those who caught COVID-19, those that fought and got better and those that fought and sadly lost the fight. This year has made me realise how strong I can be, how amazing my work team/friends can be and in times of need we are all there for each other. I am proud we have got through this year together.



**Anon** 

99



The professionalism shown in Hearing Services in maintaining their care of those with hearing loss.

Jim who survived



**Anon** 

66

The strength and determination it took to keep ourselves safe and our patients safe and supported during the first wave working on 7A – memories I will never forget.



99

Anon



Dr Hashir Kriel for his patience and kindness towards me when we were called out to a COVID-19 positive patient who required an Endoscopy out of hours. Dr Kriel made sure we were safe before and after the procedure. I will never forget his kindness as I was very scared which he helped to alleviate.

I would like to remember... My lovely mum who died from a stroke not COVID-19 but this was during the pandemic and on Christmas Day 2020.

Thank you to all the staff on HASU who looked after Mum so well and were so kind to my sister and I at such a busy time . RIP Mum

99



How I realised how important our health is. I was ill for almost a year during the pandemic and I realised how much we take simple things for granted. I pray that all of the families who lost someone to COVID have peace and find a way to cope and look to the future.



**Anon** 



"Not by my strength but his" (Zachariah 4:6)



99



**Anon** 



The courage of the NHS staff. The compassionate and inspiring leadership of the Glos hospitals team.

99



66

Arthur

I am sorry we could not be there to say goodbye. I would have dropped everything to see you one last time and hold your hand. I will always remember your WW2 stories on our seaside holiday with nanna Jonesy.

I love you xxx Victoria



**Anon** 

99



- 1. Behind every mask there is a face and behind that a story.... So many people affected in different ways!
- 2. The memory of "We've Got This" all pulling together.

One 'Big TEAM'. Unity in care



All staff that risked their own health and their families to do their best to take care of their patients.





**Anon** 

99



Anon



Today is a heart breaking milestone.

It has been a tough year, and a traumatic year end. It has been a year that we have faced together and that is something we must never forget.

We remember the people who lost their lives even if we don't know them personally, grandparents, parents, brothers and sisters, friends and colleagues.

Each one was loved and each one was special.

Today we remember and pray for the departed souls...RIP. They are no longer with us but they are in our hearts.

A year ago, the country demanded complete lockdown to stay at home – many homes became schools and offices, students and teachers learned how to do school on line and young people around the country step up to help their neighbours to serve the community.

66

Although distanced from each other Community felt stronger... people cheered from balconies to show their gratitude to the health workers the heroes of the pandemic.

We stayed together always to rebuild our country and to regain our loss.









Thank you all - Bless you all.

99



**Anon** 



How amazing our hospital volunteers were. Many volunteers were immediately stood down, not knowing when they would be able to return. Those who could continue to volunteer rallied to help and they managed to keep our main welcome desks open throughout the pandemic. They quickly responded to offer a service for patients to receive personal belongings once visiting had stopped. We should be very proud of them.





Everybody whose life has been adversely impacted by COVID. The effects are too numerous to list but everybody has had to adapt, deal with and accept. For many, losses will be permanent whether it be a family member, job or loved ones. The world will never be the same.



Teresa



**Anon** 



I worked a 12 hour shift on Christmas Day so unable to see my family. My mum died a week later and I hadn't been able to see her for months. Not a victim of COVID but certainly a casualty none the less.

99



**Anon** 



The kindness of Denys, one of the chaplaincy team. I had been working almost double my normal working hours to support the ward. He came in one Sunday and I just broke down in front of him. He came around the desk, sat down, held my hand and told me not to worry. God had us all in His Sight. We prayed together. I will never forget his compassion and comfort, which made such a difference to me.

99



My lovely husband, Richard, who sadly passed away March 2019. I miss him every day. He worked for this Trust for 37 years and is missed by his colleagues. Always in my heart.





66

I remember those who were afraid to go to work, but still went.

I remember those who were scared going home but still carried on caring, giving their skills, their energy, their emotions and strength.

I salute those who gave so much but still worry that they could have done more. You're my heroes.



